

Measles (Rubeola) Fact Sheet

What Is Measles?	<p>Measles is a highly infectious disease caused by a virus. Complications caused by the virus, such as diarrhea, encephalitis or pneumonia, can occur in as many as 3 out of 10 cases. Complications are most often seen in children under 5 years of age, or adults over the age of 20.</p>
What are the symptoms?	<p>The initial symptoms of measles include fever, cough and runny nose. These symptoms are followed in about 2-4 days by a rash. The rash usually lasts 5-6 days.</p>
How is Measles treated?	<p>Measles is caused by a virus, so antibiotics will not help.</p> <p>Most people recover completely on their own. The best treatment is supportive treatment, which includes rest, drinking plenty of fluids and over-the-counter medications to reduce the fever and headache.</p>
How do people catch this disease?	<p>Measles are spread primarily from person to person by airborne respiratory droplets. The disease is very contagious and is spread to as many as 9 out of 10 close contacts who have not had the disease earlier or have not been vaccinated.</p>
What can be done to stop the spread of this disease?	<p>The Measles vaccine (MMR) provides permanent protection against measles. The vaccine is recommended for all infants at 12 months of age. It is also a requirement to attend day care or school in South Carolina.</p>

For more information about measles, visit: www.cdc.gov